

Message Text

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MUNICH PROGRAM CENTER

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC

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VOA MUNICH ATTN. MR. HALSEY

1. AUSTRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE TOP TREATMENT TO THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC HEADQUARTERS; THE STORY RATED BANNER HEADLINES AND EDITORIALS IN DAILIES OF DECEMBER 23. TRANSLATED HIGHLIGHTS AS FOLLOWS:

2. ARBEITER ZEITUNG, RULING SOCIALIST PARTY ORGAN, AS EXPECTED PRAISED KREISKY'S HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR. "UNLESS ITS COUNTRY IS IN A STATE OF WAR, COULD ANY GOVERNMENT-NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD-HAVE RISKED TO MAKE ITS DECISION ABOUT CONCESSION TO THE TERRORISTS DEPENDENT ON PROOF OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THEIR INTENT, PROOF FURNISHED BY THE MURDER OF ONE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS HELD HOSTAGES? THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE SUCH A RISK OUGHT TO SAY SO NOWS-SO THAT WE CAN MADE A NOTE FOR THE NEXT TIME".

3. DIE PRESSE, VIENNA'S INTELLECTUAL DAILY, CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR: "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDED IN ATTRACTING THE OPEC TO VIENNA, BUT NOW THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GUESTS ARE LEFT TO AN UNCERTAIN FATE, PAWNS IN THE HANDS OF

GANGSTERS...THE HOSTAGES WILL NOW TELL THE WORLD ABOUT VIENNA'S METHOD TO GET RID OF PROBLEMS. THEIR HOME COUNTRIES WILL NOT FOREGT THIS, AND IT WILL HARDLY BE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE UN CITY (IN VIENNA)."

4 KURIER, MASSCIRCULATION DAILY, RAN TWO EDITORIALS--ONE PRAISING KREISKY'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT BUT CRITICIZING SECURITY MEASURES--THE OTHER HOPEFUL THAT COMMON ANTI-TERRORISTS MEASURES WILL RESULT: "BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH WE HAVE EXCAPED A CATASTROPHE EAST TO IMAGINE. THIS IS A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE. IT WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY TWO FACTORS. THE BREATHTAKING DETERMINATION EVIDENCED BY BRUNO KREISKYE'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT, AND MUCH LUCK..WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT ONLY ONE OF THE CHANCELLOR'S ARGUEMENTS. H E

SAID THAT OPEC CONFERENCE WAS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE LEAST SERIOUS SECURITY RISKS. IS THAT REALLY SO? ELEVEN OIL MINISTERS ASSEMBLED IN ONE PLACE ARE THE WORLD'S MOST PRECIOUS GAHTERING OF PERSONS WHO CAN BE BLACKMAILED. THE MAFIA KNOWS THIS, AND SO DO HOLLYWOOD AND THE TERRORISTS. ONLY THE OPEC IN THE AUSTRIAN POLICE WERE NOT AWARE OF THIS. THE NEW OPEC BUILDING IN VIENNA WILL HAVE TO A SMALL FORT KNOX".

FROM THE EDITORIAL, "WILL ARAFAT BE TAKEN HOSTAGE?", "THERE ARE ONLY VICTIMS, BUT NO VINDICATORS, SUPPORTERS AND GLORIFIERS. ALSO ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE CONDEMMED THE ACTION IN VIENNA. SHOCKED BY THE NEWS THAT THEIR OWN MINISTERS WERE TAKEN HOSTAGES, THE OPEC COUNTRIES--SOME OF THEM OVERT FRIENDS AND PROMOTERS OF THE PALESTINIANS' UNDERGROUND STRUGGLE- REALIZE NOW THAT HE WHO SUPPORTS TERROR WILL FALL ITS VICTIM SOONER OR LATER. THIS IS THE POINT WHERE, HOPEFULLY, A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTMIGHT BEGIN. IF COMMANDO GROUPS KNOW THAT AFTER AN ATTACK THEY WILL BE SENTENCED IN ALGIERS THE SAME WAY THEY WOULD IN VIENNA, LONDON OR CAIRO, THEIR HAGGLING OVER HOSTAGES, ESCAPE PLANS AND FREE CONDUCT WILL BECOME FUTILE.. THE PLO HAS DENOUNCED THE VIENNA TERRORISTS AS CRIMINALS. A CONCEIVABLE CONSEQUENCE: THE STRANGE OPEC COMMANDO WILL ATTACK PLO HEADQUARTERS. ARAFAT AS A HOSTAGE-THIS WOULD PERHAPS BE THE LONG-AWAITED STARTING SIGNAL FOR COMMON ACTION".

5. VOLKSSTIMME, COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, TRIED TO BLAME THE WHOLE UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTACK ON OIL COMPANIES, ZIONISTS AND THE CIA: "THIS ACTION WILL NECESSARILY SPLIT THE ARAB AND NON-ARAB OPEC COUNTRIES BECAUSE ALSO THE MINISTERS OF THE LATTER WERE HELD AS HOSTAGES. SUCH A WEAKENING OF THE OPEC IS ONE OF THE PARAMOUNT AIMS OF THE OIL COMPANIES. THIS ACTION WAS GOOD ONLY FOR IMPERIALISM. THE PLO'S STATEMENT THAT THE ATTACK WAS MASTERMINDED BY IMPERIALISTIC AND ZIONIST CIRCLES MAKES SENSE. HOWEVER, WE SHALL LEARN THE TRUTH ONLY IN TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS WHEN NEW DISCLOSURES ABOUT CIA METHODS WILL BE MADE".

BARDOS

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